

Message Text

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15
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
----- 068743

O 280505Z AUG 73
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0776
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL DACCA 3873

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, BG, IO, PK
SUBJECT INDO-PAK TLAKS - GOP REQUEST

REF: NEW DELHI 9929; ISLAMABAD 6996; AND 7027;
STATE 170337; DACCA 3848

1. DUE TO A DELAY IN TRANSMISSION, THE REFERENCED
TELEGRAMS DID NOT REACH US UNTIL MID-MORNING AUGUST 28.

2. WE ARE GRATIFIED THE DEPARTMENT TOOK THE POSITION
IT DID AND CONCUR FULLY WITH THE SEVERAL ARGUMENTS
ADVANCED BY NEW DELHI AND ISLAMABAD AGAINST THE
UNITED STATES PLAYING A ROLE IN TRANSMITTING THE
ABDUL SATTAR MESSAGE TO THE BDG.

3. GIVEN THE CLIMATE OF OFFICIAL OPINION IN DACCA,
OUR INTERVENTION WOULD HAVE HAD UNFORTUNATE
CONSEQUENCES. WHILE UNCERTAIN OF GOI INTENTIONS IN
THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH PAKISTAN, THE BDG CONTINUAS TO
BE DEEPLY SUSPICIOUS OF GOP MOTIVES. SET AGAINST
REPEATED AMERICAN SUPPORT OF THE SIMLA PROCESS, OUR
BELATED AND UNPRECEDENTED ARRIVAL WITH A PAK MESSAGE -
WHATEVER ITS MERITS - WOULD HAVE REINFORCE THE BDG'S FEARS
PAKISTAN DOES NOT SERIOULSLY SEEK A SETTLEMENT AND WOULD HAVE
ACCOMPLISHED THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT ABDUL SATTAR
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CLAIMED THE GOP WISHES. AN AMERICAN-CARRIED MESSAGE
WOULD FURTHERMORE HAVE REVIVED DEEPLY ROOTED BENGALI
SUSPICION OF AN AMERICAN-PAK CONSPIRACY. THE REVIVAL
OF THIS UNFORTUNATE BELIEF WOULD PREJUDICE OUR

PROVIDING SUPPORT OR INFLUENCING AT A LATER DATE ANY PART OF THE SETTLEMENT PACKAGE TO WHICH THE THREE PARTIES EVENTUALLY AGREE OF GREATER IMPORTANCE, WE WOULD EXPECT THE BDG REACTION TO AN AMERICAN MOVE OF THE SORT ABDUL SATTAR SUGGESTED TO BE SUFFICIENTLY EMOTIONAL AND HOSTILE TO REVERSE SERIOUSLY THE PROGRESS

WE HAVE MADE DURING THE PAST MONTHS IN NORMALIZING OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.

4. EARLY IN THE EVENING OF AUGUST 27, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY CALLED THE CHARGE TO ASK HIM TO MEET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER KAMAL HOSSAIN AT 16:15 AUGUST 28 (LATER CHANGED TO 16:30). THE MINISTRY DID NOT SAY WHAT HOSSAIN WISHED TO DISCUSS OR WHY. DESPITE THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS DEPARTURE FOR ABIDJAN (DACCA 3848) THE MINISTER IS STILL IN TOWN. WE ASSUME THE NEW DELHI TALKS ARE THE REASON FOR THE DELAY IN HIS DEPARTURE. WE NOTED OUR COLLEAGUES AT THE INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION WORKED LATE LAST NIGHT AND THE DEPUTY HICOM ARRIVED ONE HOUR LATE FOR A RECEPTION HE GAVE FOR THE DEPARTING INDIAN ECONOMIC COUNSELOR, DASGUPTA, THE INDIAN FIRST SECRETARY POLITICAL, ALLOWED TO AN EMBASSY OFFICER LATER THE SAME EVENING THAT HE TOO HAD BEEN HELD LATE AT HIS OFFICE, AND ADDED CRYPTICALLY THE DELHI TALKS HAD REACHED A MOST DIFFICULT PHASE. WE CONCLUDE FROM THESE INDICATORS THAT THE GOI AND BDG ARE IN CLOSE AND CONSTANT COMMUNICATION ON THE NEW DELHI TALKS. HAD WE ACCEPTED ABDUL SATTAR'S REQUEST AND CIRCUMVENTED THE ESTABLISHED CHANNEL OF TRILATERAL COMMUNICATION, WE WOULD HAVE RUN SERIOUS RISK OF ALIENATING BOTH THE BANGELEES AND INDIANS. NEWBERRY

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